



*When Every Word Counts...*

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

--oOo--

**PUBLIC MEETING FOR YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S  
REVISED MERCED RIVER PLAN/ SEIS**

August 16, 2004

Oakland City Hall  
Frank Ogawa Plaza  
Hearing Room #1  
Oakland, California

**CALIFORNIA DEPOSITION REPORTERS**  
P.O. Box 108  
Covina, California 91723  
(800) 242-1996

**CERTIFIED COPY**

1 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
3

4 PUBLIC MEETING FOR YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S  
5 REVISED MERCED RIVER PLAN/SEIS  
6  
7

8 August 16, 2004  
9

10  
11 Oakland City Hall  
12 Frank Ogawa Plaza  
13 Hearing Room #1  
14 Oakland, CA  
15  
16

17 CALIFORNIA DEPOSITION REPORTERS

18 P.O. Box 108  
19 Covina, CA 91723  
20 (800) 242-1996  
21  
22  
23  
24

25 Reported by: Freddie Reppond

A P P E A R A N C E S

---oOo---

1           [REDACTED]: My name is [REDACTED]. My  
2 last name is spelled [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]. I  
3 should have spelled it in order.

4           To lighten the load of the traffic in  
5 Yosemite, I think there are some things we could do to  
6 make for less traffic to Yosemite. As an example,  
7 eliminating the wide-screen television -- the sports bar  
8 down there in the valley floor. People will drive from  
9 Fresno or wherever to the valley to watch a football  
10 game, the Rose Bowl, whatever. If we just eliminated  
11 that kind of thing, that would make it less attractive  
12 to unnecessary car trips into the park.

13           Also, I don't know how many outlets there are  
14 for the sale of alcohol in Yosemite today, but around  
15 1991 there were about 21 outlets. There should be very  
16 few outlets for the sale of alcohol in the park.

17           And if a car parked in Yosemite Valley has an  
18 alarm go off, I think that car should get a \$250 ticket  
19 on the windshield that they have to pay before they  
20 leave the park. It's really surreal, to say the least,  
21 to be up on the trails, like Yosemite Falls trail, and  
22 to hear a car alarm or car alarms, plural, sounding  
23 from the valley floor. It's really -- it kind of wrecks  
24 the experience, you know.

25           So that's just, you know -- those are three

1 ideas right there to make far less traffic to Yosemite:  
2 to get rid of the wide-screen television; to get rid of  
3 the sports bars; to reduce or eliminate the sale of  
4 alcohol in Yosemite. And to issue tickets -- expensive  
5 tickets -- for the car alarms going off.

6 Thank you.

7 [REDACTED]: My name is [REDACTED], and I'm  
8 with Friends of Yosemite Valley.

9 I am glad you brought the scoping to the  
10 northern Bay Area. The scoping period did not have any  
11 prior notice; and I think it's really important for the  
12 public to have the opportunity to know ahead of time  
13 that there will be a scoping period and when it's going  
14 to be. It was only announced -- and not too many people  
15 knew -- on the very day that it opened, July 27. I  
16 received a letter in the mail on -- dated, I believe --  
17 August 7th. And somewhere I have the actual date I  
18 received it. It was definitely not then. So we were  
19 well into the scoping period when myself and other  
20 people received that. I do know there was an e-mail  
21 sent out, which I believe was sent out on July 27, but  
22 I'm not sure of the day.

23 Anyway, I think that due to no prior notice  
24 for this critically important opportunity for the public  
25 and for the Park Service and for this dialogue to reopen

1 the plan and really take a fresh look, we need to have  
2 the comment period extended and people need to be  
3 noticed so that they know. We want people to -- and  
4 I've heard it expressed here today and which I'm really  
5 glad of -- to really be able to get some ideas that  
6 maybe we haven't had before and incorporate. This is  
7 really quite an opportunity that's opened up, so we want  
8 to be sure that it's used appropriately.

9 Also, there were no meetings in Southern  
10 California; and, as we know -- I can't remember the  
11 figure anymore -- but it's probably around 30 percent of  
12 the people who visit Yosemite come from the Southern  
13 California/Los Angeles area, so there should be a  
14 scoping meeting in that area and also in the Central  
15 Valley. So this is -- most, except for this one -- is  
16 in the Yosemite area, which greatly limits people's  
17 availability.

18 I am concerned -- we are very concerned --  
19 that the Park Service is not taking a fresh look and not  
20 using the scoping period. Scoping is to bring in the  
21 scope, to widen -- to be wide; and the Park Service has  
22 very inappropriately narrowed the scoping period from  
23 the get-go -- the scoping comments from the get-go -- to  
24 user capacity and El Portal boundaries, as if they are  
25 not interrelated with the zoning. For example, the

1 management zoning certainly needs to be revisited with a  
2 fresh look in terms of user capacity. There is no  
3 question -- and I don't think I need to quote John Muir  
4 to this group -- as to everything being hitched to  
5 everything else. It truly is. And certainly, in the  
6 River Plan, user capacity is hitched to most of these if  
7 not all of the other management items.

8 Oh, am I already done? I'm just beginning.

9 I'm hoping for transparency in the process.  
10 We've had four years we have not had a protected River  
11 Plan. I'm here because I still have hope. That's why  
12 I'm here. So I would like to see in that transparency  
13 process the Park Service put their process -- make their  
14 process clear and put the ORV data up on the website so  
15 the public can follow it as it's developed.

16 And, obviously, things need to be very  
17 particularly and specifically linked to the ORV so that  
18 we can understand how they're going to be protected,  
19 where they exist, what their condition is -- all those  
20 things need to be really clear, and those are just some  
21 examples.

22 One other thing -- oh, yes, I want to remind  
23 everybody of the Appeals Court ruling -- the actual  
24 language quoting the Appeals Court, which was quoted in  
25 the District Court's ruling, quote: While we remanded

1 to, quote, the Appeals Court -- they did two rulings.  
2 They clarified their first rulings, since the Park  
3 Service didn't seem to understand the first one. Quote,  
4 While we remanded, quote, the District Court to enter  
5 the appropriate order requiring the -- I'm inserting  
6 "National Park Service" -- to remedy these deficiencies  
7 -- I'm inserting "user capacity" and "El Portal  
8 boundaries" -- in the CMP in a timely manner in at 803,  
9 we did not, quote, otherwise uphold the CMP, unquote.

10 And I wanted to say one thing -- one more  
11 thing. I was really glad to see in the slide show that  
12 under "Comments and Issues" to consider that the third  
13 point and the fifth point addressed projects. I think  
14 that's really critical and I'm surprised and happy. And  
15 I'm really happy to have a good surprise that that is  
16 there.

17 "Other Projects That May Affect the Plan or Be  
18 Affected by It" -- this is really critical because we  
19 have the Yosemite Valley Plan breathing down our  
20 throats. Obviously, there have been directives to get  
21 the Valley Plan done. The River Plan has been treated  
22 like a mosquito that needs to be swatted and gotten out  
23 of the way. We don't want to see that happen again.

24 And, also, the last point on there,  
25 "Information and How to Use the Park and How the Project



1 Might Affect That Use." So I'm glad to see that project  
2 mentioned. And they do need to be reconsidered, the  
3 project that's here, from the Merced River plan.

4 Thank you.

5 [END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.]  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25